FEEDING THE PHONOGRAPHS.

EXCLUSIVE PERFORMANCE THE PUBLIC GETS SECOND-HAND,

Which Is a Pity. So the Stars Think - Remunerative if Ingiorious, and the Profession Has Its Jealousies - Oddities of a Talking Machine Factory.

There is one place in this city where joy goes unconfined from 10 o'clock in the morning till 4 in the afternoon. This is in the theatrical department of a talking machine factory. In that sacred and limited precinct the atmosphere fairly sizzles with music and fervent declamation, and vaudeville, legitimate drama and grand opera rolled into one cannot excel the performance in point of interest and variety. The only trouble is, this Ultima Thuje of the continuous is a very exclusive affair and the general public is deprived of an opportunity to shower applause upon the stars that glitter in the phonographic firmament. The stars themselves take this deprivation of popular appreciation very much to heart tenors are particularly rancorous.

"I sing better when my head is poked into the mouth of this horn than at any other time," said one of these clear-throated persons, "and it seems a thousand pities that there is nobody here to hear me except the other performers, whose own melody is soon swallowed up in other horns. "But you ought not to complain about that, "consoled the visitor. "Your sphere

is not circumscribed. You are putting yourself on record, and no matter what you say or do you are bound to come out-"At the little end of the horn," put in the tenor, dryly.

"Ten o'clock," said the manager, appearing beside the visitor's chair. -Signor Capavelli, are you ready?"

The manager of a laboratory variety show has a benevolent cast of countenance and striped clothes. His voice is affability reduced to sound and his manner graciousness vivified in action, yet notwithstanding his very obvious amiability his mere announcement of the hour was sufficient to cause the disgruntled tenor with the Italian name and Londonderry accent to cease to lament the fate that had constrained him to run to horns, and prepare himself for song. This process of naking up was not wearisome or intricate. It consisted merely of peeling off a coat and sticking a lump of gum on the partition. Then the Signor was ready to

"First thing," said the stage manager, "we will have the Duke's song done again. It didn't come out well yesterday."

"That wasn't my fault," argued the tenor. "You'll have to charge that up to the planist. I wanted to sing it in five sharps, but he had to play it in four flats. He couldn't transpose.

The piano was elevated about seven eet above the floor, but through this distance the man fingering the keys caught the adverse criticism and glared.

"You could not reach the A," he retorted. "I played it in a lower key on your account." The stage manager rubbed his hands up and down the legs of his striped trousers. "Gentlemen, gentlemen," he remonstrated. "It is now five minutes past 10

"Tum-tum-tum." wailed the piano and the tenor approached the capacious mouthpiece of the sensitized horn, bent his head nearer to the receiver and sang, con impeto: "La denna è mobile, Quat pi trua al vento.

The barytone over in the corner put his fingers in his ears. "Heavens," he breathed, "he'll break the thing all to smash at that rate

"Sempre un' amabile,

record. I know of but one soprano who is considered first class. She, however, is a wonder, and her high Gs and Fs are enough to make your hair curl.

"A barytone voice is best for all-around purposes. It is valuable not only for singing, but monologues, political addresses and character studies. However, when it comes to versatility, I refuse to take a back seat for anybody, even though I am a tenor. Since I became a machine I've sung everything in a tenor's repertoire from the Swan song to 'My Babe from Boston Town, and in about seven different languages, though of course I don't claim that I got a perfect accent. Then, I don't confine myself to the repertoire of a tenor. Up to a year ago I was forced, by the exigencies of the phonographic labor market, to infringe on the rights of the sopranos. Why, once I had the temerity to try the 'Mad Song.' I actually went on record, too, and is included in the regular list to this day. Besides that, I've done freak work. For instance, one manager conceived the idea, a year or so ago, of putting on record the cries of a solitary man who had drifted out to sea in a little shell of a boat and was about to pay his last respects to Davy Jones. Say, it would make your blood out to sea in a little shell of a boat and was about to pay his last respects to Davy Jones. Say, it would make your blood curdle to hear the shrieks and despairing 'Helps' and 'Ahoys' that that imaginary mariner let out. If I do say it myself. I brought the record up to the very top notch of realism.

Well, a short while after that selection had been put on the market a New Yorker who was summering on the Maine coast loaded a little boat with fishing tackle, a miniature restaurant, a circulating library, a talking machine, and himself and went out for a day of dreamy dawdling on the ocean

a day of dreamy dawdling on the ocean dreamed and he dawdled and by and by the water began to churn, and the boat gan to caper most reprehensibly. Incidentally the man from New York began to try to holler but, to his dismay, he couldn't raise a peep. He hadn't been used to loafing around on the water and his cuting had made him so hoarse that he couldn't even acts that night

"There he was, away out there on the "There he was, away out there on the ocean, four miles or more from shore with not even a row boat in sight and no voice left to call anybody. Luckily he happened to think of the talking machine and in short order that machine was yelling 'Help' and 'Save us' to lead the band. The cries of the man, himself, in ordinary voice, couldn'thave been half so effective. The racket was wafted clear in to the shore and I don't know how far inland. The crew of the life saving station heard it and rowed out and saved him."

and saved him."
The visitor looked at the tenor admir ingly. That was splendid, she said "But you ought to have had a reward. You were primarily responsible for the

Oh, I know," said the tenor modestly, "but I didn't put in any claim I don't mind a little thing like that. I've done bigger things than that I've worked no end of miraculous cures in hospitals and vale sick rooms. A man over in Jersey

private sick rooms. A man over in Jersey City was converted last winter by list ening to my singing of Rock of Ages, and another fellow up in Yonkers—

Pardon me," interrupted the stage manager. "The soprano says she's got the blues this morning and would like to substitute 'Life's Dream is O'er' for the regular number, if you're agreed. What do you say?"

you say?

'ft's all the same to me," said the tenor ligingly, "Will you come in and bear?" he inquired. But the visitor escaped.

SOME USES OF TREES. Their Value to Humanity Before Teached

by the Woodman's Axe.

From the Chicago Post. Utilitariums consider the trunk the is portant part of the tree. The trunk is and tries to lift the vital organs of the tree purer air and brighter sunshine. Beneath the ground the strong roots and rootlets have hundreds of eager, thirst mouths which take nourishment from the earth. Water and mineral matter are carried upward by the process of capillary att clien to the leaves in the crown and the branches for digestion and assimilation. A leafless tree stands little chance of living. Trees denuded of their leaves by caterpillars and other mis-oblevous things are deprived of their stom-

Every leaf on a tree is unceasingly in

MAN WHO SAW LINCOLN SHOT.

EYE WITNESS OF BOOTH'S CRIME LIVING IN WAKEFIELD.

Is William Withers, and on That Night In 1865 He Was Leader of the Orchestra in Ford's Theatre, Washington Assassin Stabbed Him as He Escaped.

In the village of Wakefield there is an old man to whom the shooting of President McKinley comes home with especial force. He is William Withers and he was once the leader of the orchestra in Ford's Thea-Washington, and while there he was an eyewitness of the shooting of President Lincoln on the night of April 14, 1865.

"In a life of 65 years, almost fifty of which have been spent as an orchestra leader, have seen many strange things," he said to a St N reporter on the night of the shooting of President McKinley, "and I have travelled all over this continent and Europe; but of all the things that I recall none remains so indelibly stamped upon the with the natives, who have long since tablets of my memory as the scenes of that learned, to their sorrow, that they cannot terrible night. It seems but yesterday since Lincoln died.

"Laura Keene's company was at Ford's Theatre, and on that particular night it was Good Friday the play was the 'American Coustn.' with Laura Keene as the star. I was young and enthusiastic then, and very much wrapped up in my work. I had written and composed a song which engaged a quartet and we had practised me that it should be sung between the acts that night

"The entrance of the Presidential party which was entirely unexpected, very effectually put an end to our plan. The party consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln, Major Rathbone and the two boys, 'Tad' and Robert Lincoln. They proceeded to a box to the right of the stage, and fourteen feat above its level. As the party walked along the passage the vast audience cheered enthusiastically, while the orchestra struck up 'Hail to the Chief' I had heard that played often at the entrance of a President some public gathering, and had frequently noted that the Chief Executive ignored it and failed to acknowledge that he understood its import. Not so with Lincoln. He smiled and bowed politely to orchestra and audience then with characteristic modesty, he withdrew to a far corner of the box, so that his face was shaded by the curtain. He did not sit in front as has been erroneously stated.

I wonder, that he follows the playso closely?

I remarked to a member of the orchestra This was near the conclusion of the first

rung down, J. H. Wright the prompter, sent word to me that it would be impossible to produce my song that night, because Miss Keene was nervous over the unex-pected arrival of the President, and was fearful lest something would occur to mar the play I was angry at this, as Miss ally eager to see how the song would take is I was somewhat proud of it. I made up my mind, therefore, to go to the rear of tage and remonstrate with Wright governor which controlled the gas of the entire building was placed. L

SPENDTHRIFT LAW OF HAWAII. TO RID CATHEDRAL OF DEBT. Designed to Protect Wealthy Natives, but It Has Led to Corruption.

HONOLULU, Aug. 27. Hawalians read the sensational accounts in the mainland press of rich men's debaucheries and of fortunes squandered in a fortnight and smile. Particularly to the more intelligent and the wealthier natives the subject is one which affords considerable amusement. They passed through the same stage at one time. Wine suppers, carousals with actresses, lavish gifts to friends-all these many vears ago were as frequent in Honolulu as New York city. That was before the Spendthirift law, also a relic of the missionaries, but still on statute books of the island, held many a rich native in iron bondage firmer than a prison cell. Needed though may have been in its day, the Spendthrift law is one which next may be called to run the gauntlet of Constitutionality, for it deprives the victim not only of his property, but of his liberty, with little regard for due process of law. This statute has ever been a tender point

trifle with fortune, even though it be their own, as do the scions of millionaire families of New York and Chicago. Such prodi-gality as has characterized some of the wealthy citizens of the States would recan in Hawaii the appointment of a guardian, who would not only control the property. but also the person of the liberal spender.
The Hawaiians are not a thrifty peop Many acquired fortunes by the enormous increases in the value of land and from the extensive sugar plantations in the early days. Their money, easily acquired, was put into circulation again in the same free and casy manner, and the wild festivities of some of the natives threw the good mis-sionaries into consternation. They saw of some of the natives threw the good mis-sionaries into consternation. They saw the work of long years wrecked unless they could put a stop to the mad pace of the natives. The Spendthrift law is the re-sult. It was a good law, perhaps, in the hands of good people, but unfortunately it did not remain in such hands. The wild extravagance and lust of the natives was checked. A man who spent

matives was checked. A man who spent more money than his income permitted was promptly placed under the control of a guardian, who limited his expenditures as he saw fit. The law gave the courts authority to place in a guardianship trust any man who was drinking more than he handled as secretical accounts of should, or spending a greater amount of money than his income permitted. The law was made to cover almost any case of extravagance or foolish expenditure, and docke. The estates under this control amount to hundreds of theusands of dellars. No one was exempt from the provisions of the law. If a man was a drunkard, or spent more than his income, on the application of an interested party he could be extended. "How great and good and amiable,' thought L.

"Before the overture Wilkes Booth and I had had a drink together, and now that the President was seated, I saw him moving down the passageway leading to the box. He seemed to be intently watching the

wine were limited by the guardian who controlled his fortune.

The reaction has now come. The court deckets are beginning to be filled with applications from men who want their guardianship terminated and their keeper discharged, that they may be allowed to spend the remaining portion of their fortune croscives. Americans and people was particularly strong His guardian, an attorney, had been getting more from the estate than did his ward. This ward-had amassed a competence of nearly \$100. 000, which he expected to enjoy in his old age. Six years ago he was placed in guardianship because he had been drinking, and now he has applied to the court for relief, which has been granted. There are numerous cases of great similarity on the court dockets. The Judges now show an inclination to dissolve the spendthrift trusts when proper showing is made, and the corrupt practices engendered by peculiar law seem likely to be stopped

a scene WHEN JACKSON WAS SHOT AT.

Section of the control of the contro

PROJECT AFOOT WITH REGARD TO ST. PATRICK'S.

Not Until the Edifice is Free of Encumbrance Can It He Formally Conse-crated—Plans Being Made to Bring That About -History of the Property

St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth avenue was dedicated on Sunday, May 25, 1879, but the great Gothic structure has not yet been formally consecrated according to the ritual of the Roman Catholic Church The reason is the usual one. It is still burdened with debt. According to the law of the church until all liens are paid off it cannot be consecrated. After it is thus formally set aside for divine worship the property can never be alienated Lest the leading church of the faith in New York should seem to hang back it the march of progress the authorities have determined that an effort shall be made to wipe out the debt.

With its rich congregation and the prestige of being the residence of the Metro politan this might be considered an easy task, but they are to go at it by degrees. The idea now is to have the consecration take place coincidently with the celebration of the silver jubilee of the bulling in 1904. The subject has been discussed in the diocesan council and the preliminary steps looking to the successful attainment of this plan have been taken.

The debt now remaining on the property less than \$250,000, the valuation is more than ten times this sum and the programme by which it will be wiped out easily and without imposing too hard an immediate burden on the people, is in process of incubation.

The corner stone of the cathedral was laid by Archbishop Hughes on Sunday April 15, 1858 in presence of one of the largest assemblies gathered together in this city up to that time. The building was first opened to the general public, at a great fair that was held within its walls during the months of October and November 1878. The dedication or ecclesiastical opening, was on May 25, 1879.

The history of the progressive sales the Cathedral site gives an interesting view of the relative values of property at various eras of the city's grawth. It was owned originally by the city of New York. owned originally by the city of New York. The city conveyed the property on May 1, 1799, to Robert Sylburn for \$1.012.50 and an annual quit rent of four bushels of wheat. The Cathedral occupies only one-half the square thus conveyed to Silburn, Madison avenue dividing it in half. The original plot was bounded by Fourth and Fifth avenues, Fiftieth and Fifty-first streets. Sylburn sold this property on Feb. 20, 1810, to Travers Thompson, and the latter with Thomas Cadle conveyed it in March, 1810, to Andrew Morris and Cornelius Heeney Heeney was a partner in the fur business of the original John Jaco: Astor. He was identified with much of the early progress of the Catholic Church here and in Brooklyn, to which he devoted a large portion of his fortune. He died a bachelor and left his estate for the benefit of the orphans of Brooklyn. It consists of several orphans of Brooklyn. It consists of severa acres of Heights property, the inco

of which is distributed yearly by the Brooklyn Bene rolent Society in the manner his will provided.

Morris à Heeney then sold the property to Dennis Doyle, on May 21, 1821, subject to a mortgage they had given to the Eagle Fire Insurance Company. In September, 1828, this mortgage was foreclosed and at the Sheriff's sale Francis Cooper bought the property for \$5,500. On Jan 20, 1829, he sold it to the trustees of St. Peter's and St. Patrick's churches for the same amount with interest to date. They wanted it with interest to date. They wanted it for a cemetery. The agitation against this use of the property had the desired effect was abandoned because was so far away and the roads leading to

if were so bad St. Peter's and St. Patrick's are the only Catholic Churches in the city incorporated like those of the Protestant denominations An Almost Forgotten Attempt to Kill under the old State law with boards of trustees elected by the pew-holders All other Catholic Churches are incorporated other Catholic Churches are incorporated under a system that makes the board consist of five trustees—the Bishop, the Vicar

Gray Hair a Crime?

Thousands of men and women are turned out of positions and many fail to secure situations because their gray hairs make them look oid. This

Hay's Hair-Health

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COLORED HELP.

Letters From Negroes Maintaining That It Is as Good as Ever.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIL recent issue of your paper, I think Sept A. an article appeared under the heading of olored Help Degenerating," in which the appears As a member of the unjustly despised race. I feel it almost a duty to champion the cause of my people in this instance, when their last resource is thus attacked With the experience of long years of private and public servitude and almost constant contact with the very best people of the country. I feel in a position to speak in answer to this article, and claim that it is all a mistake They claim that colored help is inferior, high-priced and insolent, full of high-sound-

ing words and airs. I point with pride to the colored servants of their forefathers who served faithfully and well through generations of a household and were borne

have added from everywhere but France!

A good servant must possess a fair amount of intelligence and good judgment. Do you find it, as a rule, among the people who are recommended as perfect servants? Few of them speak or comprehend very little English, and the immigrants—most of them—have had very little for no experience with the class of people they are called to serve.

The colored girl, you say, takes home left, overs. The white help steals your diamonds. The colored cook in your kitchen is unapproachable and easily insuited. In reply to that allow me to cite an instance of which I have personal knowledge. While serving as yacki steward two years ago, on board of the my employer, who pays \$30 permonth for his cooks in the house, was obliged to have three cooks within a week, all white women, formans, Ac., and they all left for trifing causes, but his faithful and efficient butter, colored, has been with him for ten years, and claims with me that there is no better master or kinder employer than his.

High priced, you say? Quality demands price, whether it be faith priced, too. Do you expect to obtain colored cheaper? You speak of privileges: a mild sort of severity, you say is better than so much kindness. I cannot agree with that

Always court the friendship and good will of your servants through reasonable familiarity and kindness and your welfsre will be safer in their keeping and they will have no yengeance to wreak on your fine china and cut glass. If they are at all conscientious.

There we have the file of the sure. There

are usually two sides to every question of debate, and surely the question of "Colored Help Degenerating," as debated in a column and a half in THE SUN of Sunday, Sept 8.

is not an exception.

The main point of help-getting in New York, by the high-born society people, is more for stale and fashion than for real service. We have known families that kept colored help for some years, but when the old members of the family die the young members come in possession of property and in control of finance, make a trip to Europe and on their return get in white help. Then, if you please, Mr. Editor, the English, German Irish laundress will receive a higher com-pensation for the same and sometimes for less service than did the late colored help

for doing more work

It is indicated by the article debating this

race found at high-class employment bureaus s unquestionably the most desirable.

Then it is white help and not black that is wanted, which is to say "Help wanted, but white only need apply". It is the woman's white skin that speeds her on to progress and the other woman's black skin that hinders her advancement, yet both are servants in the common walks of life. It is the negro-girl's dark complexion that makes her more objectionable than her supposed insufferabe and amusing airs. No doubt the acts of

and anusing airs.
In some cases the colored servant gir.
New York may be working her own
doing, but from a different point of v
to that indicated by the rticle debating.

TELEPHONE FIENDS.

by Their Ears and Voices. From the New Orleans Times-Dec The telephone habit has become a disea with a great many persons, said a year Orienns specialist vesterday, for it is A curious fact that there are many persons who are almost constantly rushing to a recephone for one purpose or another | have a triend who is fearfully afflicted in this way especially when he is under the influence liquor. If he gets a few drinks shead of t normal supply he immediately begins to call up his i and he will talk and talk until one think that his tongue and ear would

But he keeps it up, and there are main other men who do exactly the same those under the same circumstances.
The telephone habit, however confined to the men who occurs under the influence of liquor frequently do the same thing are by no means exempt. Take younger women, and they will fin are passionately fond of calling t up over the telephone and chatting about the little nothings of the Now there is a serious side to i

Now there is a serious side to of using the telephone to an telephone is a great thing a healthy article. But it camp fully contended that taking phone is the perfectly hatural.

There may be some hatto in it. The ear is pressed too dos head, and the voice is greatle at the natural tatch. On the oth ever distinct the voice may be end of the line, there is a perbut probably unconscious dread the listener that all that is a heard, and so the hearing is similarly the presence of the human changed if the practice is indicated in the point of reason. The estimated out until it would be as had been pressed with a failure be without the little creases an advantage of the little creases and does it reason to the human changed if the practice is indicated by the without the little creases an advantage on much to the beauty of it.